

Iowa's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy *Annual Action Plan for 2006*

The Iowa Council on Homelessness has identified the following priorities for 2006:

- Develop 25 new single-family housing units specifically for homeless persons, with 10 percent of the new units to be set aside for chronic homeless individuals. Work with local public housing authorities (PHAs) to guarantee rent subsidy vouchers for these projects.
- Develop 25 new housing units for disabled persons who are homeless.
- Designate funding for Permanent Supportive Housing specifically for homeless families.
- Allocate a specified allotment from the State Housing Trust Fund through IFA administrative rules to support homeless housing initiatives, including a full range of housing opportunities with an emphasis on rural areas.
- Work with the Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Department of Economic Development to develop a policy that would require new large-scale economic development projects to include a housing impact assessment as part of the evaluation process in an effort to reduce negative housing impact.
- Identify funding to support 1,000 additional emergency shelter beds, beginning with 100 additional beds in 2006.
- Actively promote adopting the Universal Living Wage that indexes the minimum wage to the cost of housing.
- Actively promote adequate and affordable health care coverage for uninsured Iowans.
- Actively promote mental health and substance abuse parity in health care.